

Dear PMC Members:

On Wednesday, November 8, 2006, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted an Open Door Forum on Home Health, Hospice and Durable Medical Equipment (DME). Natalie Johnson of CMS' Office of External Affairs moderated the forum.

At the ODF CMS announced that they have chosen the names of the accreditation bodies and, when finalized, CMS will post a release, as well as contact information for the approved accrediting organizations at: www.cms.hhs.gov/competitiveacqfordmepos/ The accreditation information on the competitive bidding website will include the relevant organizations, their contact and website information, and will clearly indicate what equipment they have been approved to accredit for. Obviously, any questions or concerns you may have about the program can be directed to me at the PMC, or to the DMEPOS accreditation team leader Alisa Overgaard at Alisa.Overgaard@cms.hhs.gov. Until accreditation is complete it will likely remain a regular matter at the Open Door forums in the future.

CMS officials couldn't provide any additional information on competitive bidding or when the final rule on competitive bidding will be released. When a caller asked when the agency would release the 10 metropolitan statistical areas or MSAs where competitive bidding will take place in 2007, an official answered, "[A]s soon as possible."

As always, the PMC will forward you the details on how to participate in the next Open Door Forum when they become available. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

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